



**HB-5349: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIME IN WHICH CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS MAY APPEAL AN ASSESSMENT**

COST opposes HB-5349, which would provide residential property owners who have experienced an increase of at least twenty per cent in the assessment of their property with additional time to appeal such assessment.

This extension has the potential to disrupt municipal budgets because a town could be required to provide reimbursements long after the town has spent its budget.

COST believes that the current law provides good opportunity to file an appeal. There is not a sufficient need for this measure that would justify its potential adverse impact on budgets and budget planning at the municipal level.

Therefore, COST opposes HB: 5349.

**SB-286: AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN TAXPAYERS TO APPLY FOR RECONSIDERATION FOR CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS REIMBURSED BY THE STATE**

COST opposes SB-286 which applies to the town of Stafford. SB-286 would allow a company to apply for reconsideration for a manufacturing, machinery, and equipment tax exemption. This bill would allow reconsideration of a 2006 decision by the Office of Policy and Management. If the exemption is approved after the reconsideration takes place, the town shall be forced to reimburse the person who made the payment in an amount equal to the amount of the exemption. It is unfair to require a town to be financially liable for the reconsideration of a decision that was made over eight years ago by OPM.

Therefore, COST opposes SB-286.

The legislature has enacted numerous mandated or municipal option property tax exemptions that reduce municipal revenues and/or shift tax burdens to homeowners and businesses. Recognizing this, the Connecticut General Assembly directed the state Department of Revenue Services to perform a tax incidence study to analyze the impact of policies on state and local revenues.

**Accordingly, COST recommends rejection of any new legislation that includes mandated or local option property tax exemptions. Lawmakers should delay consideration of these issues until the tax incidence study is complete and we have the opportunity to fully analyze the impact of such proposals on state and local revenues.**